

## President's Message

by *Alex VanZanten*

As the year goes on, we sometimes find ourselves getting in a rut or at least we end up using only one resource for our research. Even though we may become really efficient with this resource, there is so much more out there for us to use. As a society, it is our goal to try to expand everyone's abilities and talents when it comes to researching a variety of programs.

We also want to continue to provide information on the various aspects of genealogy components, such as history and framing. Last year we had an extremely interesting class on preserving and framing old photographs, but only 6 people were able to attend.

On March 25, we have the opportunity to hear Glenda Peckham present information on making the most of and what is new in Family Search / Family Tree. On April 22, since we missed our Show and Tell in January, we will do "What's In Your Genealogist's Research Bag". On May 27, Jim Jackson will be providing information on publishing your family history. On June 24, just in

time for family reunions, Anita Stuever will be presenting "Family Reunion Scavenger Hunts".

Next year I would like to cover different research sites and how to best use them. We need to have your input as to what sites to cover and what questions you would like answered. If any of you have expertise using a particular site, we would love for you to do a presentation on that site. There will be a survey at the next society meeting and you can indicate your willingness to share your expertise.



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## Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The purposes of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS) are:

- To gather and preserve information of genealogical value.
- To encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories.
- To aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge.
- To publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.



CCGS is a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Individuals, libraries or societies may join. Annual dues for the year, beginning September 1, are \$18 for members choosing to receive **Generations** through postal mail or \$15 for members electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay for the following year's membership. Members receive **Generations** newsletter six times per year. All are invited to submit articles to the **Generations** editor. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of pages from back issues of **Generations** are available for \$1.00 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional page. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LDS Marshall Branch Church 16036 Old US -27, Marshall, *unless otherwise specified*. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Programs are free and open to the public.

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## Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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**Become a CCGS fan on Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyGenealogicalSociety>

**CCGS e-mail list:** Send a message to [calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Organizational Member of **National Genealogical Society • Michigan Genealogical Council • Federation of Genealogical Societies**

# RESEARCH AT ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY

On March 15 my husband and I took our first bus trip to the Allen County Public Library in For Wayne with members of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society, and we had a great time. Jim Jackson from CCGS came along as well. He is working on a project identifying local Civil War graves. I knew this library had a great genealogy department, but was surprised to learn that it takes up the entire second floor of a building that fills a city block. About 25 of the 37 folks in our group started with the tour. If you haven't been for a while, you would probably benefit from this, as they have done some rearranging. For example, the Michigan section has been moved from the front of one section to the back of another.

I had a specific goal this trip. I needed to prove a reference in a book that links my Great-great-great Grandfather Enos Palmiter to his father, Joshua. Joshua Palmiter was a Revolutionary War Veteran and I am working toward becoming a member of the DAR. I had found a reference at FamilySearch.org that linked the Palmiter father and son but was told I needed a copy of the title page. I went to the Reference Librarian with the book title and he said it was no longer in print, but because I had Enos' birth date and place of birth he could help me. He took off across the library with me on his heels to the opposite corner, where he quickly found "The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records, Suffield 1674-1850." There on page 273 were Joshua and Elisabeth (OLD) Palmiter with their marriage and death dates, along with Enos and his 6 siblings, each with birth date. I was excited!

Making copies requires a temporary library card that you take to a kiosk and load with a dollar. Copies are 10 cents each, but free when you load the scanned image to your flash drive. You must load at least a dollar to your card in order to use the copier/scanner, but it does not expire, so you can save it for your next trip.

One member of our group brought not only her laptop, but also her own tabletop scanner. She set her workstation at the other end of our table and plugged into the pop-up electrical outlets available at each end of the tables. She worked diligently all day. She may not even have stopped to eat. I was impressed.

Speaking of eating, we took along a sack lunch and bottled water. Our tour guide immediately told everyone there was no eating or drinking anywhere but out in the concourse or downstairs in the Dunkin Donuts shop, and that we should store our lunch under the table. There are some lounge chairs and a little table or two out on the mezzanine and most of us wanted to hurry back to our research, so finding a place to sit and eat wasn't a problem.

After lunch I went back to the Connecticut corner where we got the Barbour book and picked up a book called, "Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800." In it I found John Palmeter of Westerly & Deborah Batten of Stonington, married in North Stonington on 9 Nov 1752. They are the parents of Joshua Palmiter – another important source for my family tree.

Some information is only available on microfilm, but if you find a record you want to print, you may use one of the printers in that area and print either a negative or positive image for free.

All too soon, it was time to leave. We stopped for dinner at the Ponderosa in Auburn on the way home and had a nice conversation over dinner with two ladies from the KVGGS. I also visited with one of their members on the bus. The Cardinal Coach bus was very comfortable and there were electrical plugs overhead and wifi if needed. We couldn't have had a better trip. – Darlene Stange

## **Over 50 Enthusiastic Genealogists Attended the Lock In at Helen Warner Branch Library**

Friday night, February 28<sup>th</sup>, was the annual lock in held at Helen Warner Branch Library in Battle Creek, Michigan. Over 50 people attended this event hosted by Willard Library; George Livingston, Local History Librarian; and our society.

Members and non-members spent the night attending a mini genealogical workshop, accessing the local history resources, using the online databases and getting one on one help with their research.

George Livingston started the evening explaining the digitized databases available for patrons use through the library's computers. In addition, these databases are available to library card holders remotely from your home.

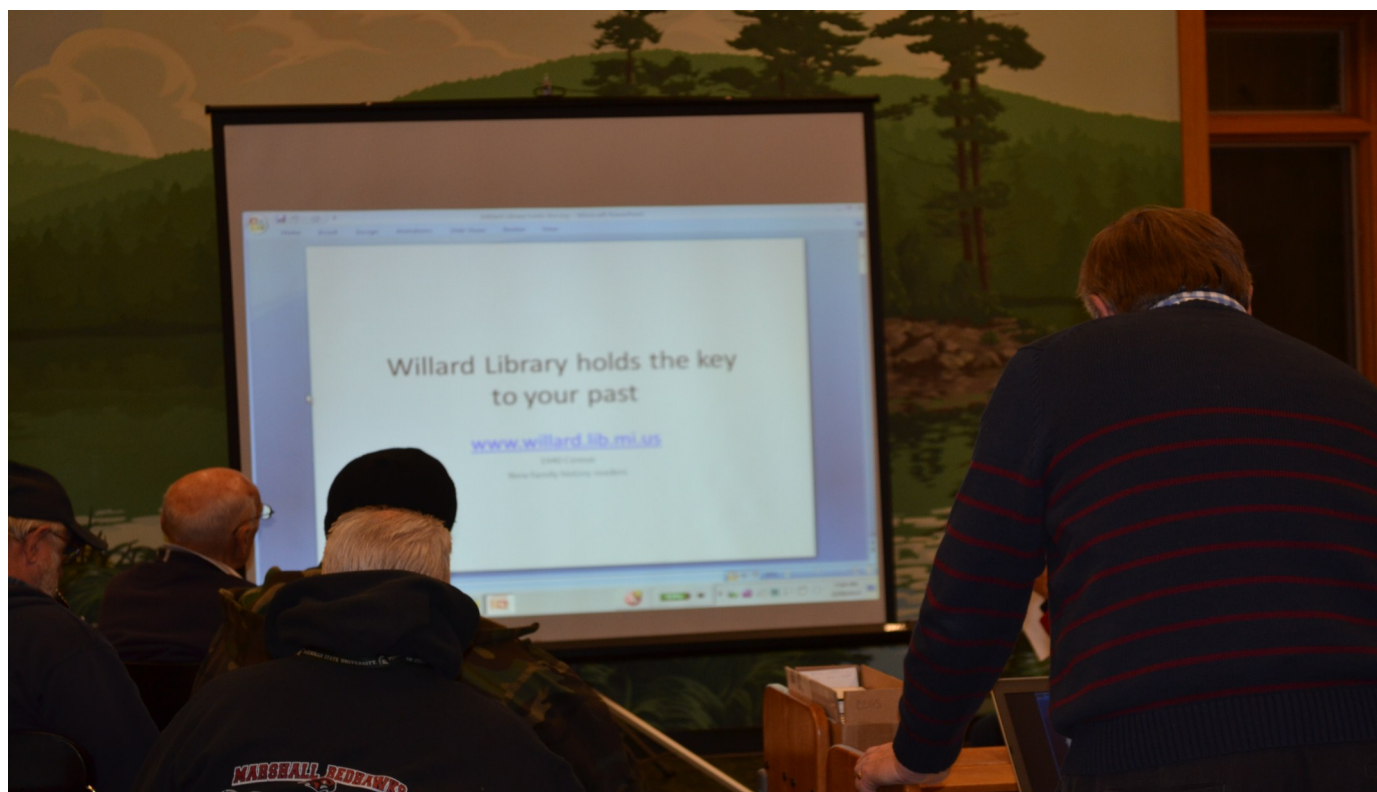
The remote access with library card databases are Battle Creek City Directories (1890-1923), Heritage Quest, Local Newspapers (1846-1923), Battle Creek Enquirer Newspaper (2002-present), Calhoun County Probate Index, Sanborn Fire Maps and Local High School Yearbooks.

The databases available free through the computers at the library are American Ancestors, Ancestry, Local City Directories (1923-1960), Heritage Quest and Battle Creek Newspapers (1923-present).

A few databases are open to all without a library card. They are Historical Images of Battle Creek, Stuart A. Lassen Historical Battle Creek Postcards, Genealogy Links, History Links, Newspaper Index (1967-2012), Tales of Battle Creek digitized book.

Gloria Huff presented this year's microfilmed probate records to George Livingston. Society members have volunteered with this project.

Society members and George Livingston held attendees with their research. Door prizes, including two free CCGS memberships, were given out. Thank you to those who attended and helped others with their research and to the Helen Warner Branch Library and George Livingston.



George Livingston giving his presentation.



Gloria Huff presenting the microfilmed probate records.





Guests at the lock-in using the computers to access information.



Guests listening to the presentation.

### Program Survey

Your board members would like to know how we can serve you better at the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. The survey is on the next page, please complete and return to Brenda Leyndyke at [brae957@gmail.com](mailto:brae957@gmail.com) or 269 275-0462 . The results of the survey will be used for planning purposes. We want to hear what you think: the good, the bad and the ugly!

**Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS)  
Member Survey 2014**

**It has been a number of years since our last survey of members. Your board members would like to know how we can serve you better at the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. If you didn't fill a survey out at the March meeting, please complete the questions below. Your answers will be used to plan for future programs and activities that will benefit you as a member. Thank You!**

**You can bring your completed survey to our April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting or mail to Brenda Leyndyke, 309 N. Moorland Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49015.**

1. How long have you been a member of the society? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Has CCGS met your expectations?    Yes    No  
If no, what can we do to improve your experience?
3. Do you participate in another genealogical society's activities?    Yes    No  
What do they offer that CCGS does not?
4. Are you interested in participating in more activities?    Yes    No  
I would come to more meetings if:
5. What was the subject of your favorite program in the last two years?
6. What was the subject of your least favorite program in the last two years?
7. What topics/programs would you like to have presented at CCGS meetings? Be specific, please.
8. What speakers would you like to hear?
9. Do you like to have programs away from our regular meeting place?    Yes    No  
How many times a year would be acceptable to meet at genealogy places of interest?
10. Are you interested in having social events?    Yes    No  
What kind of activities would interest you?
11. What changes or suggestions do you have for making CCGS better?

In my papers I ran across a story about a man buried in Homer ( Fairview Cemetery ). His name is Waldron, and after the war he lived in Jackson and worked for the Michigan Central Rail Road as a brakeman.

He had a tragic accident in 1874, see article from the Homer Newspaper below. There is a touching detail, of how he lived near the Rail Road tracks and would wave to his wife as his train passed by. Will make an interesting story to tell .

Courtesy of Chris Czopek  
SUV - Camp 17

EDWARD WALDRON  
VETERAN OF THE  
6<sup>th</sup> MICHIGAN INFANTRY – Co. I

*from the Homer Index, Oct. 21, 1874*

FATAL ACCIDENT - On Saturday morning last, Mr. Edward Waldron, a brakeman on the M.C.R.R. [Michigan Central Rail Road] and formerly a resident of this place [Homer, Mich.], was run over by the cars and instantly killed. The accident occurred by the train being broken into [=in two] at the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> car from the engine. The remains arrived here at noon of the same day, and the funeral held Sunday at 2:30 P.M. at the residence of his father-in-law Mr. Wm. Peppet, where many of our citizens and large numbers of attaches of the M.C.R.R., who came from Jackson on a special train , met to show their great respect for their departed friend and associate. Mr. W. was about 30 years of age, was well known and highly respected by his many friends.



EDWARD WALDRON  
VETERAN OF THE  
6<sup>th</sup> MICHIGAN INFANTRY – Co. I

*from the Homer Index, Dec. 30, 1874*

We have been presented with a copy of the “Locomotive Engineers Journal” in which we find the following:

FROM BROTHERHOOD No.2

A sad accident occurred at Jackson, Mich. on the morning of October 17<sup>th</sup>, [1874] connected with which are some touching incidents, that, I can but think the narration of them will be interesting to Railroad men generally, and so I write them for the Engineers Journal.

Trains leaving Jackson Junction, going West, for some distance pass down a street on which many of the railroad men live. This was the case with one of our brakemen, Edward Waldron, and whenever a train passed by his house by day, it was his custom to wave his hat to his young wife, who was ever in sight to nod him a greeting and farewell. If it was at night, she would sit by the window with a lamp, that he might catch a glimpse of her, and to see herself his assuring signal of “all right” with his lantern.

These signals were exchanged as usual about 3:30 Saturday morning, and in less than three minutes he was seen to fall from the train and was instantly killed. The train broke in two. As he had got on to the engine and was walking back to the caboose, blinded by the smoke of the engine, he did not see that the train had parted, and so walked off at the break, and the on coming portion of the train passed over him, mangling him shockingly.

His funeral was at Homer, Mich. on Sunday. This gives me an opportunity to pay a tribute of admiration and respect to many of the Brotherhood of No.2, and railroad employees of Jackson generally, for the way they availed themselves of the opportunity of coming up to Homer on a special, to pay the “last token” of respect Waldron’s memory. Mr. Rust, and his fireman, Mr. Clark, of engine “Warrior”, one of those on the Blue Line Express, who got into Jackson at 10:57, after a tedious all night run, volunteered their engine to bring those to the funeral who wished to come. Mr. Mort. Hulett, the Conductor of B.L. express, offered his services, and the “special” left the Junction at 11:55, giving these men no time to procure anything to eat, and involving a fast of nearly 24 hours.

Like goodness is to be recorded of members of crews that got into Jackson on night runs, that made like sacrifices of rest and refreshment to come.

Your organization is rightly named a Brotherhood when it brings forth such fruits as these which, it seems to me, must strengthen the faith in and lore of humanity of all to whose knowledge the facts come.

HOMER

## **Generations**

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Calhoun County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 879  
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

Don't forget to fill out  
the survey!

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### **Calhoun County Genealogical Society *Calendar of Events***

CCGS monthly meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December, and are free and open to the public. Unless noted, meetings are held at 7 p.m. at LDS Marshall Branch Church at 16036 Old US-27 N, Marshall MI.

April 29-What's in Your Genealogist's Research Bag?-Our panel of experts will share their must have research tools for a trip to a cemetery, library, archive, family interview or genealogy road trip.

May 27—"Publishing Your Family History" by Jim Jackson

June 24—"Family Reunion Scavenger Hunts" By Anita Stuever

July - August—No Meeting

September— Time to renew your memberships for next year!

Have ideas for future programs? Please contact Vice President Brenda Leyndyke, whose contact information is on page 2.